

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 22, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

TO: Distribution

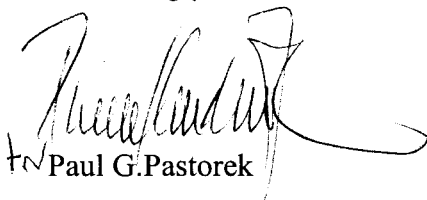
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the White House
Correspondents' Association 90th Annual Dinner, May 1, 2004

The White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) is sponsoring its 90th Annual Dinner on May 1, 2004, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C. The WHCA has invited NASA officials, including the NASA Administrator, to attend the event as its guests. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The event will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and staffers, members of the White House and staffers, and representatives from media organizations. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all foods and beverages, is \$175.00 per person. Approximately 2700 people have been invited and approximately 1500 are expected to attend the event. The President of the United States is the guest of honor and main speaker at the event. The WHCA will present major journalism awards to recognize distinguished reporting and will award a four-year scholarship to recognize the achievements and potential of a college-bound senior. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I therefore conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the event without charge.


Paul G. Pastorek